

To the Members of the California Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 1565 without my signature.

I completely respect the intentions of the authors of this bill in addressing the need for quality child care programs in California and share their interest in improving the quality of care in the State. However, this bill may not directly address some of the shortcomings in the system.

The Legislature has already requested an audit of the Child Care Licensing Program of the California Department of Social Services that will examine the program's oversight of providers to ensure that child care programs are maintaining a safe environment for kids. The results of that audit may provide more critical areas of concern related to health and safety that should be resolved prior to implementing a study and development of a rating system.

We all share the same goal, and I look forward to working with Assemblymembers Pavley and Benoit in the coming legislative year to address the issue of child care quality.

For these reasons, I am unable to sign this bill.

Sincerely,

Arnold Schwarzenegger